

# TOMMY BURNS TRIBUTE MATCH

CELTIC FIRST TEAM v TB SELECT  
SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2009 KO 2PM



 Celtic Charity Fund

Tommy Burns   
SKIN CANCER TRUST

PRICE £4



# PHOENIX

*"I wanted to go out with a smile on my face  
and not a tear in my eye"* (Tommy Burns, 1989)

*"Enjoying your work is essential. If your work  
becomes an expression of your own ideas, you will  
surely enjoy it"* (Soichiro Honda, founder Honda Motor Company)

*"His invisible nature becomes in a special way visible"*  
(Pope John Paul II, Dives in Misericordia, 1980)



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# TOMMY BURNS TRIBUTE MATCH

# WELCOME



**T**ODAY will be a special occasion for the Celtic Family as supporters gather to pay tribute to a special man and a great Celt. Tommy Burns was those things, and much more as well, and everyone at Celtic Park will have their own memories of him, as a player, as a manager, as a coach and as a person.

Of course, our thoughts are, first and foremost, with his wife Rosemary and their four children, Emma, Jenna, Michael and Jonathan. Their loss is immeasurable and is a reminder that Tommy was, most importantly, a husband, father and grandfather.

For the Celtic Family he was one of our own. He was, in his own words, a supporter who got lucky and he never forgot that. Fans, in turn, appreciated everything he gave to the cause and rightly heralded him as a hero. He played for 14 years in his beloved green and white Hoops, making 503 appearances and scoring 82

goals. But his entire life and career was devoted to Celtic and it is right and fitting that a Tribute Match be held in his memory here at Celtic Park.

It is also fitting that the teams competing this afternoon should be Celtic ones. The first-team worked closely with Tommy during recent seasons, and he played an important part in the club's three-in-a-row success. And some of the squad have come through the Youth Academy ranks - being taught by Tommy how to play football the Celtic way.

And the Tommy Burns Select is full of famous names from Celtic's recent past, players who were team-mates of Tommy's and others who had worked under him when he was manager of the club. It is a measure of how highly regarded he is by everyone he worked with that so many former players were eager to take part in today's match.

Today will be an opportunity to see these players once again, to relive some great memories and to remember everything that Tommy Burns did for our football club. For everyone, he epitomised everything that is good about Celtic and everything that we, as supporters, are proud of.

The Tribute Match and this special commemorative programme remember a great Celtic man and the occasion will be a celebration of an extraordinary life, while it will also be a poignant day as the Celtic Family pay tribute to Tommy Burns. He remains sadly missed but he will never be forgotten.

**The organising committee would like to thank the following for their help in today's event.**

- Nike for supplying the Celtic kit
- On Site Audio Visual Services
- Parks of Hamilton

# TOMMY BURNS TRIBUTE MATCH



**W**E gather here at Celtic Park today for an event tinged with sadness but principally we are here to celebrate the life of Tommy Burns - a true Celtic legend and the man himself would want this to be a happy occasion.

Tommy has been hailed as a legend in whatever capacity he held here at the club he loved so much, whether that be as a player, manager, coach, ambassador or, as he so famously said, just a supporter who got lucky.

However, strange as it may seem for a man who seemed to live and breath Celtic Football Club eight days a week, football lapsed behind faith and family in Tommy's ethos and that's why he would want today's celebration to be a happy event.

For foremost in his thoughts was thinking of, and helping others and Tommy fully embraced and encouraged both the benevolent origins of the club and the worthy aims of Celtic Charity Fund which, incidentally, originated during his reign as Celtic manager in 1995.

So it's fitting that both the Celtic Charity Fund and the Tommy Burns Skin Cancer Trust will benefit from today's meeting between the current Celtic side and a star-studded select team of players who played with and under Tommy.

Indeed, on show today are just some of the many players whose lives and careers have been enhanced and enriched simply by knowing Tommy Burns and the fact that they have all gathered to not only celebrate his life but to raise money for needy causes would please Tommy greatly.

Celtic Charity Fund has raised over £2million since its inception in 1995. The Celtic Family continues to be phenomenal and funds raised through various activities are donated on behalf of each and every Celtic supporter.

In this financial year alone, over £430,000 has been donated to no fewer than 116 worthy causes while almost £70,000 has been raised this year by Celtic supporters and staff at the club through fundraising schemes - an amount which has been bolstered to around £87,000 thanks to the Celtic Charity Fund's 25% uplift on such ventures.

Celtic Charity Fund donates to many worthy causes on local, national and international levels and recent beneficiaries include the Yorkhill Children's Foundation, Beatson Pebble Appeal, Amnesty International, Bobath Scotland, Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice, Australian Bushfires Appeal, Ripple Africa, Scottish International Relief and the Glasgow

Taxis Outing Fund for Sick Children.

As always, there is a wide and far-reaching list of charities and causes both local and worldwide among the recent beneficiaries but it goes without saying that the charity at the forefront of most people's minds today is the Tommy Burns Skin Cancer Trust.

The club lost one of its greatest characters to this condition when Tommy passed away on May 15 last year.

Of greater import, though, the Burns family lost a son, a husband and a loving father and grandfather and they have felt the loss more than anyone.

Everyone of us here this afternoon would like to thank Rosemary and the family for their help in organising this celebration of the life and career of Tommy Burns.

Our thoughts remain very firmly with them all as we pay tribute to the life of a truly exceptional individual and one of Celtic's greatest sons.

**Peter Lawwell,  
Celtic Chief Executive**



**T**OMMY Burns was a famous footballer and coach. After having met him they are the last two things you remember about him.

I remember as a teenager the respect that Tommy was held in by the friends of mine who were fortunate enough to play with Celtic at that time.

He was always the person who players looked up to as an example of what a Celtic player should be. That was not lost upon the rest of the Celtic support not lucky enough to play with him either.

My outstanding memories of Tommy are as a great Celt as well as a great player.

Tommy brought this attitude with him to Kilmarnock as both a player and then manager, and with the arrival of Fergus McCann I don't think that too many people would argue with his choice of the man to lead the new Celtic.

We all still talk to this day of the teams that Tommy fielded as manager. During his spell in the hot-seat between 1994-1997 he made some terrific signings and brought a brand of free-flowing, attacking football that will live long in the memory.

He deserved to win a championship as gaffer but still played a part in his successor Wim Jansen's success in stopping Rangers winning

10-in-a-row with major contributions from Jackie McNamara, Alan Stubbs, Phil O'Donnell and Morten Wieghorst, all of whom were signed by Tommy.

His time as Head of Youth at Celtic is bearing fruit with a host of our youth players gaining international experience at various age groups and a new generation of home-grown talent knocking on the door of the first team.

It must be said that his commitment to youth development is one of the most pleasing of this modern Celtic era.

Kenny Dalglish brought him back to Celtic in February 2000 and he served under Martin O'Neill and Gordon Strachan. His role in the success of both managers was considerable and cannot be underestimated.

The circumstances of Tommy's passing are well known. It is incumbent on us that his death is not in vain and to that end Tommy's daughters, Emma and Jenna, decided to start the Tommy Burns Skin Cancer Trust.

The initial aim of the Charity is to raise awareness of melanoma and skin cancer in general.

You only have to watch the recent news bulletins to see the upsurge in this terrible illness, and the Test and County Cricket Board in England have only this year begun to test all

their players.

We must increase vigilance at both a personal and national level and your attendance here today will go a long way towards doing that.

It is a great pleasure to be involved in this tribute to Tommy Burns, a truly magnificent servant to Celtic Football Club in a number of capacities.

The manner in which he conducted himself was a credit to all of us as well as himself and his family.

On behalf of Rosemary, the family and the Tommy Burns Skin Cancer Trust, may I thank you for your attendance here in support of Tommy, his family and the two deserving charities that you have chosen to support here today.

**Liam Donnelly**  
Tommy Burns Skin Cancer Trust

Tommy Burns **10**  
SKIN CANCER TRUST